

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2 and 12-15 are amended for clarity. The amendments introduce no new matter.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Rashid in the June 24, 2008 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments place the application in condition for allowance and do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection and responsive to suggestions discussed during the personal interview. Further, Applicants thank Examiner Rashid for indicating, during the June 24 personal interview, that these amendments would be entered without a Request for Continued Examination. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3 and 12-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,097,518 to Scott et al. (hereinafter "Scott") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,297,217 to Hamilton Jr. et al. (hereinafter "Hamilton"); and rejects claims 2 and 4-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Scott in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,825,367 to Shyu et al. (hereinafter "Shyu") and Hamilton. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As discussed during the personal interview, Scott, Hamilton and Shyu, either alone or in any combination, do not disclose or suggest a first memory that stores the pixel value information input in a raster scan order, the first memory being less than a main scanning direction width of image data, as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claims 2 and 12-15.

The Office Action asserts that Scott allegedly discloses the recited first memory. Specifically, the Office Action asserts that the source image memory 1610 of Scott corresponds to the first memory. However, as stated in col. 46, lines 25-32 of Scott, the source image memory 1610 stores a complete bit map of the bi-tonal pixel values that form the source image. Such features do not correspond to the first memory being less than a main scanning direction width of the image data. Furthermore, Hamilton and Shyu do not overcome the above-identified deficiency of Scott.

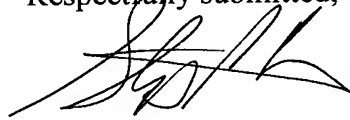
Additionally, it would not have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art to modify Scott in such a manner without impermissibly altering Scott's method of operation.

Therefore, for at least these reasons, independent claims 1, 2 and 12-15 define patentable subject matter. Claims 3-11 depend from independent claims 1 and 2, and therefore also define patentable subject matter for at least the reasons discussed above, as well as for the additional features they recite. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-15 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Petition for Extension of time

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